



Secretary,
Jeff Andersen
[@SecAndersen](#)

Recent News Releases

[Kansas and Missouri issue measles exposure sites update](#)

[2017 Preliminary Birth Report published](#)

[Kansas Department of Health and Environment awards waste reduction grants](#)

[KDHE warns of dangers of synthetic cannabinoids](#)

[Kansas sees slight drop in distribution of prescription opioids in 2017](#)

[KDHE investigating salmonella infections linked to kratom](#)

[Click here to visit our Newsroom for more!](#)

Upcoming

[May 10-11 Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium](#)
Embassy Suites Olathe Hotel & Conference Center

[May 24 Governor's Substance Abuse Disorder Task Force Meeting](#)
Topeka & Shawnee Co. Public Library

[June 12 - 14 Kansas Immunization Conference](#)
Salina, Annual Conference hosted by the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention

Division of Environment programs and the relationship to Public Health

Secretary Jeff Andersen

The Division of Environment within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) assists with the agency's vision of "Healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments" by working alongside the Division of Health to ensure the public health of Kansans.

The environmental regulations that the Division of Environment administers are all based on protecting the public health and the environment from harmful chemicals and wastes. The main federal laws that are the cornerstone for this protection are the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund), and the Clean Drinking Water Act.

There are six Bureaus within the [Division of Environment](#):

- The [Bureau of Air](#) (BoA)
- The [Bureau of Environmental Remediation](#) (BER)
- The [Bureau of Waste Management](#) (BWM)
- The [Bureau of Water](#) (BoW)
- The [Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories](#) (KHEL)
- The [Bureau of Environmental Field Services](#) (BEFS)

The Bureaus jointly protect the citizens of Kansas by:

- regulating air emissions to protect the air we breathe
- regulating discharges to streams to protect the water quality and aquatic life
- establishing water quality standards that are protective of the aquatic life and human contact and consumption
- regulating trash, debris and harmful chemicals to protect our citizens from disease and exposure to these undesirable items
- cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater to restore resources
- regulating drinking water to ensure all Kansans have safe water to drink
- performing inspections to verify permit requirements are being met
- analyzing water, sediment and soil to assess and verify they are clean or additional work is needed
- performing Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) screening on 44,000 newborn babies a year at KHEL



Ensuring Kansans have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and recreate in, and clean soil to play on all have the common goals of protecting and improving the Kansas environment and public health.

View all of the **KDHE Legislative Updates** online at:

<http://www.kdheks.gov/administration/index.html>

Division of Public Health

Opioid Task Force

- KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin hosted the first [Governor's Substance Use Disorder Task Force](#) meeting on April 19th. Members reviewed and discussed the [Kansas Prescription Drug and Opiate Advisory Committee's recommendations](#).

Help Me Grow

- Bureau of Family Health is partnering with the Univ. of Kansas, state agencies, and partners to implement [Help Me Grow](#), a systems approach to optimal early childhood development, specifically identifying vulnerable children and connecting families to resources in communities across our state.

NAS

- The KS Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KPQC) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome ([NAS](#)) work officially kicked off. Hospitals have been invited to take part in addressing the opioid crisis through these efforts.

KWebIZ

- The Immunization Program is working to identify vaccinators not currently utilizing KWebIZ. By analyzing ordering data from vaccine manufacturers, we hope to be able to reach out to vaccinators to ensure their compliance with the statute passed last year.

Division of Health Care Finance

KanCare

- Successfully went live with a new Provider Module
- Continuing to work with KDADS and DCF to develop potential solutions for hard to place children in foster care
- Continuing to meet with associations and advocacy groups as a part of our stakeholder engagement initiative

Rx Savings Solutions

- [State Employee Health Plan](#) partners with Rx Savings Solutions to help members save money on their prescription drugs

Division of Environment

New Division of Environment Bureau Directors

- Erich Glave in the Bureau of Environmental Field Services is responsible for managing 6 district office operations, the Livestock Waste Management Section, and the Watershed Management Section.
- Bob Jurgens in the Bureau of Environmental Remediation provides assessments and cleanup assistance at contaminated sites, emergency response to pollutant spills, natural disasters or coal mine subsidence, and regulatory oversight and permitting of activities at contaminated sites. They partner with local government, businesses and residents to restore contaminated property to safe conditions.

Nitrate latent water—Update

- The release of nitrogen laden water from the Farmland site near Lawrence into the Kansas River ceased at the end of March.
- To date, over 34 million gallons have been released to the river without significant impact to aquatic life or public water supplies.
- The resulting storage on-site gives Lawrence a three-year window to develop and implement a long-term plan for handling the ground water needing remediation at the site.

CONNECT WITH US

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